Protection of Tipu's fort in Karnataka

4150. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B. J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state : (a) whether Tipu's fort in Karnataka is facing damage and virtual collapse of its parts and whether the Archaeological Survey of India has been warned of this;

(b) whether this heritage site has developed major cracks; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is the result of increased pressure from encroachers; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to maintain and protect its heritage character?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (d) There are six Tipu's forts under central protection in Karnataka located at Bangalore, Devanahalli, (both in District Bangalore), Manazarabad (Hassan), Jamalabad (South Kanara), Bellary (Bellary) and Madhugiri (Tumkur). Only the first three forts have developed cracks in their walls and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made allocation for 2003-2004 for conservation of the affected portions. The main problem lies in the Fort, Gateways and Dungeon at Bangalore as the monument is encroached by shops restricting proper care and conservation resulting in the collapse of a portion of the fortification wall. The restoration of the collapsed portion has since been taken up and nearing completion and twelve of the shops have also been removed with the help of the State Police, while, regarding the remaining twelve shops the Bangalore Municipal Corporation which is constantly approached by the ASI has to act for relocation.

Cultural and musical programmes in monuments

4151. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy/users manual not to use monuments as auditoriums;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the cultural and musical programmes conducted in monuments like Taj and other important monuments over the years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) Permission is granted by the Central Government in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 for